



# Fall 2013 Newsletter

**Topsail United Church**  
"The Church by the Side of the Road"

## Welcome Back



*Sing to the Lord of harvest, sing songs of love and praise,  
With joyful hearts and voices your hallelujahs raise,  
By whom the rolling seasons in fruitful order move;  
Sing to the Lord of harvest a joyful song of love.*

Greetings to one and all! I am happy to write this message for inclusion in our *Fall* Newsletter. I write this message on the last day of summer. We have had a lot of warm/hot weather over the course of the summer but today it is a cool but pleasant day. The drop in temperature alone is an indication that the longer warm days of summer are giving way to the cooler shorter days of Autumn. Yet, there are other indicators of the move into another season. The wind is a bit more brisk. The blueberries and partridgeberries are ripe and ready for picking. Grocery stores and roadside stands are displaying all kinds of fresh vegetables. The leaves have just started to change colour and, before too long, nature will be ablaze with the vibrant and wonderful colours of Fall. The change in season makes us thankful for the lovely summer we had and the chance to enjoy times of relaxation. It also allows us the opportunity to be thankful for the beginning of Fall and returning to the various activity in which we find much enjoyment.

The Season of Fall brings many things for us to celebrate and here at the church is no exception. We have started our Fall activity of church life and work and there is an excitement as we gather to celebrate the joy of being in a community of faith. Our Sunday School has begun a new curriculum entitled "Godly Play." Teachers and students are excited by new and different ways of learning about God's love. The choirs have all started and had the opportunity to lead in worship and the congregation has been blessed by their ministry in music. And, of course, just being together in worship is a joyful experience as each of us brings the unique gifts that God has given to us all.

I began this message with the words of the wonderful thanksgiving hymn "Sing to the Lord of Harvest" written by John Samuel Bewley. This hymn celebrates the blessings of God's provision through the fruits of the harvest and the beauty of God's presence in the fellowship we share as people of faith. The way that we are encouraged to express our thanks for all these things is to, "sing to the Lord of harvest a joyful song of love." Singing a joyful song of love does not take away the challenges in life but it can help us to be thankful for the blessings in life and lean upon God's love and comfort during the difficult moments in life. May this assurance enable us to express thanks to God each day. The many programs and activities that we have here at Topsail United are made possible by the combined effort of the entire congregation.

Happy Thanksgiving as "together" we begin the Fall season in our church. May our journey together be a source of fun, fellowship, challenge, thanksgiving and blessing as, guided by God's love, we journey in faith together. Robert Lowry in his hymn "My Life Flows On" acknowledges that life has blessings and challenges but if we strive to walk with God each day we will find strength for the journey and offer our song of praise. I end my letter with a verse from this hymn and with the prayer from my wife Dianne & myself that God's blessings will be yours in this season of Harvest and Thanksgiving.

*"My life flows on in endless song, above earth's lamentation.  
I hear the sweet, though far off hymn that hails a new creation.  
Through all the tumult and the strife, I hear the music ringing:  
It finds an echo in my soul – how can I keep from singing?"*

**Blessings,  
Bruce**



## Harvest Festival

October is a busy time at Topsail United Church. The annual fundraiser **Harvest Festival** will be celebrated on **Thanksgiving Weekend, October 12 to 14** with worship and fellowship as we give thanks to God for the many blessings which surround us. The weekend begins a month of major fundraising for our church, with the Fall Flea Market and Giant Auction to follow. We hope that you will

help make this year's "Harvest Festival" month its usual great success!

Please donate what you can and come along with your friends to one or more of the events. **MONETARY DONATIONS** are always acceptable in the offering plate or in the mail if you are unable to help out with, donate items to, or attend the Harvest Festival this year.

### Mark your calendar:

**Saturday, October 12  
8 am to 11 am**  
Thanksgiving Breakfast  
(\$7 adults, \$3 children)

**Sunday, October 13  
10:30 am**  
Thanksgiving Worship

**Monday, October 14  
11 am to 1 pm**  
Sale and Soup Lunch  
(\$7 soup, roll, dessert,  
tea/coffee  
Take out available

**Monday, October 14  
4:30 pm to 6:00 pm**  
Jiggs Dinner  
(Advance tickets only  
\$14, available from  
September 29  
Take out available)

**Saturday, October 26  
10 am to 3 pm**  
Fall Flea Market  
(\$1 adult admission)

**Wednesday, October 30  
7 pm**  
Annual Giant Auction

### How can you help?

**Monday, October 14<sup>th</sup> Sale:** Donate BAKED GOODS (cakes, breads, rolls, pies, tea buns, squares, cookies, candy) CRAFTS (knitted and sewn goods); PRESERVES (pickles, jams, jellies); FRUITS, and VEGETABLES.

Bring along to the Church on Saturday, October 12<sup>th</sup>; Sunday, October 13<sup>th</sup> at Worship; or Monday, October 14<sup>th</sup> before 10:00 am.

**Monday, October 14<sup>th</sup> Jiggs Dinner:** Cook a pot of dinner. We provide the beef, you add the vegetables. Salt beef will be available for pick up at the church on Saturday, October 12<sup>th</sup>, 8 to 11 am or Sunday, October 13<sup>th</sup> after Worship. Call Gillian 781-1562 or email [gcorbett@warp.nfld.net](mailto:gcorbett@warp.nfld.net)

**Monday, October 14<sup>th</sup> Jiggs Dinner:** Prepare homemade pies for dessert. Deliver to the church before 4 pm. on October 14<sup>th</sup>. Contact Gillian or 781-1562 or [gcorbett@warp.nfld.net](mailto:gcorbett@warp.nfld.net)

**Saturday, October 26<sup>th</sup> Flea Market:** Drop off your unwanted items on Thursday, October 24<sup>th</sup> and Friday, October 25<sup>th</sup> from 7 pm to 9 pm.

**Wednesday, October 30<sup>th</sup> Giant Auction:** Donate an item. Contact coordinator Max Robbins at 744-3363 or [mrobbins@nl.rogers.com](mailto:mrobbins@nl.rogers.com), before **October 29<sup>th</sup>** to list the item and confirm arrangements for getting it to the church. The item should be marked "AUCTION" and include the Donor's name and the value.

Contact Gillian at 781-1562 or Bob at 782-0388 for more information

## Message from the Outreach Committee

The TUC Flea Market has been an annual success and we are always looking for ways to keep it fresh and make improvements. One great fund raiser from last year was the new department started for jewelry (costume, good and even broken!), handbags, and "good" footwear. Please consider this when setting aside your donations this year. As

you know, "We want what you don't want or need any more". We accept household items, furniture, lamps, bedding, clothing, etc. Some of the things we cannot accept include computer parts of any kind, old appliances, old TV's, and old microwaves. Thank so much for your donations and purchases. We look forward to another successful Flea Market.



Welcome to new and continuing members of the TUC Youth Band!



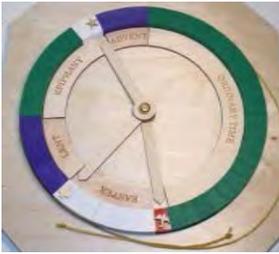
## Christmas Cantata "When Love Was Born"

On Wednesday, December 11th at 7:30 PM at the brand new Manuels River Hibernia Interpretation Center, the combined forces of the Topsail United Church choirs, the Coastal Sounds Community Choir, the Anchormen Barbershop Chorus and the St. John's vocal ensemble Afterglow will all perform a Christmas Cantata, "When Love Was Born", as well as other Christmas and choral favourites. Tickets are \$20 and they will be available for purchase at the door or at the Topsail United Church Office.

Coastal Sounds will also be holding a raffle on a homemade quilt that will be made by members of the choir, tickets for this will also be sold at the above locations and are \$2 each or 3/\$5.

## Children and Youth Program

Autumn greetings!



Godly Play Clock

I am pleased to write this message for inclusion in the Topsail United Newsletter. This autumn will mark the beginning of an exciting new season for the Topsail United Sunday School. In addition to our regular weekly activities in music, art, games, cooking, science, and creative drama, we will offer Godly Play sessions nearly every Sunday. Donations from the United Church Women and the Outreach Committee enabled us to purchase new Godly Play materials. In Godly Play, the storyteller presents a story from a memorized script while dramatizing the story with wooden figurines and other story props. One of the great features of the Godly Play program is that it focuses not only on Bible stories, but also on liturgical observances of the church. For example, the photo below displays a wooden clock which is used in Godly Play to explain the Seasons of the Church Year to children: Advent, Christmas, Epiphany, Lent, Easter, Ordinary Time.

We are particularly pleased to see a number of returning and new members in the Youth Band this autumn, and the addition of cello, flute, and saxophone instruments. A number of new approaches are being taken to improve the setup, organization, and sound of the Youth Band. The Children's Choir and Rhythm Band are also benefiting from a good number of returning and new participants. Registration in both the Sunday School and the musical ensembles is on-going throughout the year. We encourage children and youth to get involved!

We need several volunteers to assist with junior and senior high students during our Sunday morning meetings. This youth group meets in the Board Room while the younger Sunday School students meet in the Church Hall, usually 10:45-11:30am. Currently, we are rehearsing a Clown Skit and exploring the theological implications of consumerism. We hope to explore additional theatre and dance activities in the future. If you are interested in assisting in any way with this group, please contact me at [srogers@topsailunitedchurch.nf.net](mailto:srogers@topsailunitedchurch.nf.net) or leave a message at the church office.

Contact Steven Rogers for more information:  
[srogers@topsailunitedchurch.nf.net](mailto:srogers@topsailunitedchurch.nf.net)

Our Adult Study will soon begin their bi-weekly sessions. Throughout the autumn and winter, we will be exploring a book by Geza Vermes entitled "The Story of the Scrolls." The discovery of the Dead Sea Scrolls in Qumran, between 1947 and 1956, was one of the greatest archaeological finds of all time. Written in Hebrew, Aramaic, and Greek, and hidden in caves by an ancient Jewish sect, these mysterious manuscripts revolutionized our understanding of the Bible, of Judaism and the early Christian world. We welcome new participants to journey with us as we explore this interesting subject.

We are looking forward to the Christmas Pageant: "Would You Like to Hold the Baby?" Unfortunately, we had to cancel the 2012 pageant. This year we will be setting alternate times/dates on which the pageant will be held in the event of inclement weather during the regular Sunday morning worship time.

Blessings,  
Steven

## Roofing Fund

We are asking for your continuing support through donations to the “**Roofing Fund**” to offset the \$24,000 cost of having the roof reshingled. Our Raise the Roof campaign has had a great start and we thank you for the generous donations received to date. We are asking everyone to get involved, as you are able, so that we can pay off this outstanding debt as soon as possible.



For your information we are providing the following guidelines:

|                                            |          |
|--------------------------------------------|----------|
| To donate a bundle of shingles.....        | \$ 25.00 |
| including installation.....                | \$100.00 |
| To donate a roll of ice/water shield ..... | \$ 50.00 |
| including installation.....                | \$200.00 |

As we proceed, the amount of roof re-shingling paid for will be shaded in on a chart in the vestibule. Donor names will be recognized monthly in the Sunday Bulletin, and the total amount for each month will be published.

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## 176<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Service and Hymn Sing

**Sunday, November 24<sup>th</sup> at 10:30 am**

November marks the 176<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of “the Church by the Side of the Road” and a special service is being planned and will feature all our choirs. We have much to celebrate and remember. Request forms will be available soon in the Bulletin and on the website. We invite you to make a dedication to the memory of loved ones or in thanksgiving for a long life, the birth of a child or your family, in celebration of a birthday, an anniversary or other special event. This will be an opportunity to sing and hear the hymns and music we have grown to love over the years.



Following this service there will be a time of fellowship in the Church Hall.

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## Newsletter Distribution



**Do we have your email address?**

We are moving to distributing the Newsletter by email for those who have access to a computer. It is a much more efficient way of distribution in terms of time and cost.

Please send your email address to Lynn at the Church Office [lmercerc@topsailunitedchurch.nf.net](mailto:lmercerc@topsailunitedchurch.nf.net) so we may add you to the list.

## Worship Schedule - October to December 2013

All services begin at 10:30 am unless otherwise noted

### OCTOBER 2013

- 6<sup>th</sup> World Wide Communion Sunday, Senior Choir
- 13<sup>th</sup> Thanksgiving Sunday, Men's Choir
- 20<sup>th</sup> World Food Sunday, Family Sunday, Breads of the World, Youth Band and Children's Choir
- 27<sup>th</sup> Regular Service, Anchorman Chorus, Senior Choir



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Weekday Hours  
9am to 1pm

Church Hall:  
709-834-8584

[www.topsailunitedchurch.nf.net](http://www.topsailunitedchurch.nf.net)

### NOVEMBER 2013

- 3<sup>rd</sup> Communion Service, Senior Choir
- 10<sup>th</sup> Remembrance Day Service, Men's Choir
- 17<sup>th</sup> Family Sunday, Youth Band and Children's Choir
- 24<sup>th</sup> 176<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Sunday, All Choirs

### DECEMBER 2013

- 1<sup>st</sup> First Sunday in Advent, Communion
- 8<sup>th</sup> Second Sunday in Advent, Men's Choir
- 15<sup>th</sup> Third Sunday in Advent, Sunday School Pageant, Lunch, Sing Along
- 21<sup>st</sup> Longest Night Service at 7pm
- 22<sup>nd</sup> Fourth Sunday in Advent
- 24<sup>th</sup> Christmas Eve, three services at 4pm, 6pm and 8pm
- 29<sup>th</sup> Carol Sing

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## Christmas is Coming!



Watch for details of upcoming events for the Christmas season in the Bulletin and on the Website.

December 7<sup>th</sup> Breakfast with Santa                      December 8<sup>th</sup> Outreach Christmas Dinner

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*If you have ideas for articles in the TUC Newsletter or comments about this publication, please send them along to [valeriehowe@me.com](mailto:valeriehowe@me.com).*